

August 6, 1976

Dr. Samuel J. Ajl
The National Foundation March of Dimes
1275 Mamaroneck Avenue
White Plains, New York 10605

Dear Dr. Ajl,

This letter accompanies 10 copies and the original of our application for a grant to support research on "Genetic Aspects of Beta-Aminoisobutyric Acid Metabolism", which I hope you can accept as part of your clinical research grant program.

As you had amply cautioned me in good time, the standard deadline for this application was to have been August 1st, and I fully appreciate that. However, as I told your secretary last week, I found myself rather badly under the weather during a critical few days and she assured me that it would still be o.k. for me to send this material on at the present time. I have since run into another obstacle, that owing to the absence on vacation of my administrative assistant and of a number of other critical people, it has simply not been possible to get the Human Subjects Committee to meet to give formal approval to the application and the university's official endorsement that would then follow. However, insofar as the procedures that we are contemplating for the actual period of the present application are identical to those that have long since been routinely approved on other programs, and involve no more than the taking of blood and of urine samples, I think it is fair to describe this indeed as a formality, and I am sure that I can give you quite credible assurances that the appropriate documents will be forthcoming in a very short time. I am therefore sending you the papers that would be necessary for you to begin scientific review and hope that they can be followed up soon enough with the officially endorsed version to cause you no further difficulties along these lines.

You will note that we have taken a very cautious approach with respect to completing the laboratory ground-work before attempting even the most cautious extensions of investigations with human subjects beyond the use of routine samples. Nevertheless, even this must go through the usual routines of review according to the standards of our own institution.

I will be happy to answer any further questions that may arise during your consideration of this material and I thank you for your indulgence on account of the unforeseen delay.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr